

One such man is First Lieutenant Milton J. Svoboda, United States Army Air Corps. A helper in the napkin department of the Camas mill, Lieutenant Svoboda has been sailing the skies and searing the Axis for eighteen months. Besides his campaign bars, he wears the ribbons denoting proud ownership of the Distinguished Flying Cross, the coveted silver star, an Oak Leaf cluster in lieu of a second silver star and the air medal. To win them he has harassed effectively Axis land and sea forces over China, Burma, India, East Africa, North Africa and the Middle East theatre.

At Delhi, India, he was awarded, along with others, a silver star for gallantry in action on the night of April second when the plane on which he was navigator-gunner went into action against Japanese warships at Port Blair in the Andaman Islands. The general order from headquarters concludes: "Their coolness during the bombing raid which was made at low altitude under intense anti-aircraft fire, and opposed by enemy fighters, resulted in direct hits on an enemy cruiser which were observed to be followed by two explosions."

At Cairo, Egypt, he was awarded, along with others, the Distinguished Flying Cross "in recognition of extraordinary

achievement while participating in aerial flight, they having participated in 200 hours of operation against the enemy in the Middle East theatre."

There is a General Order No. 1 from Cairo, Egypt, of which the Svoboda family are proud, for it reads: "Milton J. Svoboda . . . for gallantry in action against the enemy. . . . During an operation by a formation of B-17 bombers against the enemy at Tobruk Harbor on November 6, 1942, Lt. Svoboda, acting as navigator-gunner, so demonstrated his abilities and efficiency that he was in direct contribution towards the success of the raid. The bombing run was made and the anti-aircraft fire was intense and extremely accurate, but as soon as it was outdistanced, the enemy fighters began to attack. Lt. Svoboda fearlessly manned his machine gun and helped to shoot down a fighter and probably damaged others before the danger was completely warded off. The raid resulted in the confirmed destruction of an enemy supply transport and the confirmed sinking of an Axis submarine. His accurate shooting was instrumental for the safe return from a very dangerous and successful mission." Thus serves Milton Svoboda, not so long ago helper in the napkin department of the Camas paper-